

1 - 8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: holding the one of either the member or the permanent magnetic element in the armed position, the lancet being in a withdrawn position.

10. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: adjusting the lancet for selectively controlling the positioning of the piercing position.

11. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: adapting the permanent magnetic element and the member so as to permit one to pass through the other and the other to pass around the one.

12. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: connecting the lancet in communication to the member so that movement of the member results in corresponding movement of the lancet.

13. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: orienting and configuring the permanent magnetic element and the member within the housing in such manner that in the armed position, the magnetic forces of the permanent magnetic element attract the member to the permanent magnetic element and when the member is released, the member travels towards the permanent magnetic element and past the permanent magnetic element by the momentum of the traveling member resulting in the lancet traveling to the piercing position.

14. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: orienting and configuring the permanent magnetic element and the member within the housing in such a manner so as to create a steady state position between the withdrawn position and the piercing position wherein the permanent magnetic forces of the magnetic element hold the member concentric therewith and the lancet is within the housing.

15. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of: orienting and configuring the permanent magnetic element and the member within the housing such that in the armed position, the magnetic forces of the permanent magnetic element attract the member to the permanent magnetic element and when the member is released, the member travels towards the permanent magnetic element, through the steady state position concentric with the magnet, past the permanent magnetic element by the momentum of the traveling member and back to the steady state position resulting in the lancet traveling to the piercing position and back to a position within the housing.

16. (currently amended) A lancing method comprising the steps of: positioning both a permanent magnetic element and a member capable of being affected by magnetic forces emanating from the permanent magnetic element within a housing with a lancet in communication with one of either the permanent magnetic element or the member, the lancet being movable between a withdrawn position wherein the lancet is within the housing and a piercing position wherein the lancet is projecting from the housing and adapted to be movable from a withdrawn position to the piercing position by the movement of one of either the permanent magnetic element or member relative to the other of either the permanent magnetic element or the member; positioning either the member or the permanent magnetic element to an armed position wherein the magnetic forces from the permanent magnetic element affect the member; releasing the one of either the member or the permanent magnetic element from the armed position permitting movement between the member and permanent magnetic element by at least, in part, the magnetic forces, resulting in the movement of the lancet from a withdrawn position to the piercing position; The method of claim 8 further including the steps of: fixing the permanent magnetic element within an inner shaft; and fixing the member around an outer shaft; moving the outer shaft relative to the inner shaft.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further including the step of: releasably connecting the lancet to the outer shaft.

18. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 further~~ claim 16 further including the step of releasably connecting an end cap to the housing.

19. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 8 wherein~~ claim 16 wherein the member is selectively held in the armed position or released from the armed position by a switch such switch is selectively engaging or disengaging a the member, the member being held in the armed position and the lancet is in the withdrawn position when the switch engages the member and the member and lancet being free to move from the armed and withdrawn positions when the switch is disengaged from the member.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A lancing method comprising the steps of: positioning both a permanent magnetic element and a member capable of being affected by magnetic forces emanating from the permanent magnetic element within a housing with a lancet in communication with one of either the permanent magnetic element or the member, the lancet being movable between a withdrawn position wherein the lancet is within the housing and a piercing position wherein the lancet is projecting from the housing and adapted to be movable from a withdrawn position to the piercing position by the movement of one of either the permanent magnetic element or member relative to the other of either the permanent magnetic element or the member; positioning either the member or the permanent magnetic element to an armed position wherein the magnetic forces from the permanent magnetic element affect the member; and, releasing the one of either the member or the permanent magnetic element from the armed position permitting movement between the member and permanent magnetic element by at least, in part, the magnetic forces, resulting in the movement of the lancet from a withdrawn position to the piercing position ~~The method of claim 8- wherein the step of positioning either the member or the permanent magnetic element to an armed position wherein the magnetic forces from the permanent magnetic element affecting the member involves moving an~~

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Application No. 10/728,741

arming member which mechanically moves a collar from the steady state position to the armed position.

22. (original) The method of claim 21 further including the step of: holding the arming member to the housing by at least one spring.